

Libby

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lostwithiel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1955.

During the year the scheme whereby the Council made use of the staff of St. Austell U.D.C. came into operation with very satisfactory results. The scheme will ensure continuity of supervision and overcome the difficulties of the past five years.

The absence of a sewerage scheme acceptable to the Ministry has continued to hold up development, but it is highly probable that progress will be possible next year.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Watts and other Council Officers for their help.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Yours obedient servant,

(Signed) J.G.S.TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) 3050

Population (estimated mid-year) 2020

Number of Inhabited Houses 776

Rateable Value

Product of a Penny Rate

Rate per 1,000 Population

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Lostwithiel</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate	10	12	23	11.4	
Illegitimate	0	1			
Rate corrected for age and sex distribution				12.4	15.0

Rate per 1,000 Births and Still Births

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	NIL	Nil	23.1
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Rate per 1,000 Population

<u>DEATHS</u>	15	15	30	14.8	
Rate corrected for age and sex distribution				9.6	11.7

Rate per 1,000 Total Births

-----	NIL	Nil	0.64
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Rate per 1,000 Live Births

INFANT MORTALITY

Legitimate	1	0	1	43.5	24.9
Illegitimate	0	0			

The following table gives the causes of death in accordance with the International Abbreviated List (1948)

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis , other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5
18. Coronary disease angina	2	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20. Other heart disease	2	-
21. Other circulatory disease	0	1
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	-	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	2
35. Suicide	3	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
<u>ALL CAUSES</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

The following short table gives the percentage of those dying in the age groups indicated.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0 -1 year	1	0
1- 59 years	5	1
60-69 years	3	1
70-79 years	3	6
80-89	3	6
90 and over	0	0

The single infant death was due to prematurity.

SECTION A

Lostwithiel is a quiet country town set in pleasant surroundings in the valley of the Fowey River. The town has many historic associations and has some very well preserved buildings. The only industry of any consequence is the milk depot.

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services

Public Health Office

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, J.G.S.Turner, M.B, Ch.B., D.P.H.
- (2) Sanitary Inspector (Part Time) C.H.Watts, M.S.I.A.

Laboratory Facilities These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis In addition to the supplies of diphtheria prophylactics previously available, supplies of whooping cough vaccine, both by itself, and coupled with that for diphtheria, are available at the Area Health Office, St.Austell and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners on request.

Ambulance Facilities These are provided by the County Council from the Main ambulance station at St.Austell. In emergencies, at night, and at weekends, help is given by voluntary staff from St.Austell, St.Blazey or Fowey.

Thanks are due to the Red Cross Society, to St.John's Ambulance Association, to Mrs. Batchelor, the organiser of the Hospital Car Service, and to many ladies and gentlemen who provide transport by request.

The following table gives the work carried out in the whole of Number 4 Area, and on a population basis, Lostwithiel was responsible for about one thirtieth of the work done.

	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Ambulance St.Austell Area	3914	61246
Utilicons "	11414	84930
Hospital Car Service	7445	81012
Country Centre Ambulances, Indian Queens, Fowey and St.Blazey.	597	18802

NURSING IN THE HOME There is one District Nurse, Midwife-Health Visitor who is able to cope with all demands.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE There is no clinic but as the nurse visits regularly in the home the health of the children is well supervised.

HOSPITALS There are no hospitals in the area and patients are sent to St. Austell, Bodmin, Fowey, Truro and Redruth. Patients with infectious diseases are sent to Truro Isolation Hospital when necessary.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

(a) Water Supply

There are 3 sources of supply the Ford and Maudlin supply in the North East of the Borough consisting of springs which are piped through a 4" main to the town; the Church Park Wood Adit supply which is pumped to St. George's Park Reservoir and the Collebeacon supply which consists of springs piped to the Town through a 6" main. The 4" main from Maudlin is badly corroded and would require renewal unless the Fowey River Scheme is brought into operation when this particular supply from Maudlin would be discontinued. The Church Park Wood adit supply falls off in dry weather and would also be discontinued when the Fowey River Scheme comes into operation. The Collebeacon supply feeds the area east of the river and the other two the area to the West.

Chlorination of all supplies has continued and gives satisfactory results.

(b) Sewerage

The built up area of the town is connected to a piped system of sewers which discharge through several outfalls directly into the tidal portion of the River Fowey below the bridge.

A scheme for re-sewering the whole of the town is at present being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers Messrs. Underwood and Mander of Bristol.

(c) Refuse Disposal

The greater part of the built up area has a weekly collection of refuse, some of the more isolated districts being collected fortnightly. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on a piece of ground South of the town close to the River.

(d) Rodent Control

The Council workman trained to undertake these duties has dealt with all complaints of this nature as and when required.

SECTION D

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AND HOUSING ACTS

Various complaints were investigated throughout the year and several informal and verbal notices were served all of which were complied with within a reasonable time.

During the first half of the year the survey of houses to be considered for possible inclusion in the Council's Slum Clearance proposals was completed and the following figures were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under Section 1 of The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Total No. of houses to be considered	60
No. of years the programme is to take	5
Action in the 1st year	18

(Houses already in pre-war clearance areas which have not yet been demolished) i.e.

The Moors, Phipps Court and Masons Row

The second half of the year saw detailed inspections of all these properties completed and the year ended with the appointment of a sub-committee of the Council to visit all the houses concerned and decide the action to be taken.

A demolition Order was made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1938 in respect of the house numbered 5, Quay Street, although demolition was not carried out by the end of the year.

SECTION E

MEAT INSPECTION

Regular inspections have been made of the animals slaughtered by Mr. Langmaid of Bridgend although in busy periods of the year difficulty has been experienced in arranging inspection owing to the distances and time involved.

OTHER FOODS

At various times throughout the year small quantities of tinned foods have been condemned as a result of requests from the local grocers and food shops. In these cases the goods have either been damaged in transit and leaking of the tins have been blown, due to decomposition of the contents.

SECTION E (Cont'd)

MILK

On December 6th, 1955 the Borough of Lostwithiel, in company with adjacent areas was declared to be a specially designated area with regard to the sale of milk, thus ensuring that all milk sold in the area is either pasteurised and bottled on registered premises or is from a T.T. herd on a T.T. registered farm.

Regular visits have been made to all retailers of milk in the Borough and inspections made of their premises and equipment- these were found to be satisfactory.

CAFES, RESTAURANTS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

Regular visits were made to this class of premises and the standard of cleanliness etc found to be good, the advent of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 (Made under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955) is awaited with interest as various regulations dealing with smoking, provision of hot and cold water washing equipment and facilities for staff to wash their hands, are incorporated.

These regulations come into force on 1st January, 1956 with the exception of the regulations which involve extra equipment, which come into force on 1st July, 1956

SECTION F

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and Other Diseases

Notification of the following infectious diseases were received during the year

Disease	Number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 Population		
		Lostwithiel		England & Wales
		1954	1955	1955
Measles	12	-	5.95	15.60
Acute Pneumonia	5	0.97	2.47	0.63
Scarlet Fever	1	1.45	0.49	0.73

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children at 31st December, 1955 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1941)

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1-4 1954-51	5-9 1950-46	10-14 1945-41	Under 15 years Total
(1) Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)					
(a) 1951 - 1955	-	94	153	80	327
(b) 1941 - 1950	-	-	64	49	113
(2) Estimated mid- year child population	21	120	170	158	469
(3) Immunity Index i.e. 100 $\frac{(1)(a)}{(2)}$	0	78.5	90	50.6	69.7

During the year the following immunisations were carried out:-

<u>Primary</u>	Diphtheria along	1
	" & Whooping Cough	19
	Whooping cough alone	1
<u>Booster</u>	Diphtheria alone	8

The Chief Medical Officer has stated that it is desirable that 75% of the child community should be immunised for safety. The failure to immunise those under 1 year of age particularly against whooping cough is regrettable as this is the age group with the greatest mortality from this disease.

Smallpox Vaccination

Six persons received primary vaccination and 7 were re-vaccinated.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the registrar at the end of the year was as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	5	2	7
Non Pulmonary	0	0	0

The following transfer in and death is recorded:-

DEATH - Male age 69 Respiratory

TRANSFER IN - Female age unknown Respiratory.

The scheme for the examination of the 13 year olds was continued with the following results:-

Number skin tested	15
Percentage positive	0
Number given B.C.G. vaccination	12
Number X-Rayed	6 (No abnormalities)

Three persons who were contacts of a known case of tuberculosis were given B.C.G. vaccination.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

<u>Premises</u> (1)	<u>Number on</u> <u>Register</u> (3)	<u>Inspections</u> (4)	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u> (5)	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>prosecuted</u> (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	19	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	7	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	26	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

There were none.